



## **Writing Modes**

Strand 3 of the Arizona Writing Standard identifies the writing applications or modes in which students will be instructed and assessed. These modes are presented as numbered Concepts and indicate the specific requirements of each grade level. The Writing portion on AIMS assessments is a single prompt illustrating any one of the first four Concepts:

- Concept 1 – Expressive (sometimes referred to as Narrative)  
This mode involves fiction and personal non-fiction writing that presents a significant, continuous account of an event or series of events that may be real or imagined. Prompts in this application include creative stories, personal experience narratives, poetry, songs, and dramatic pieces.
- Concept 2 – Expository  
This mode involves non-fiction writing that describes, explains, informs, or summarizes. The writing supports a thesis based on research, observation, and/or experience. Prompts in this application include essays, summaries, newspaper articles, reflective papers, logs, and journals.
- Concept 3 – Functional  
This mode involves writing that provides specific directions or information related to real - world tasks. Prompts in this application include friendly and formal/business letters, thank you notes, messages/memos, invitations, schedules, forms, recipes, manuals, and technical pieces for specific content areas.
- Concept 4 – Persuasive  
This mode involves writing that is used for the purpose of influencing the reader. The author presents an issue and expresses an opinion in order to convince an audience to agree with the opinion or to take a particular action. Prompts in this application include essays, formal/business letters, letters to the editor, and advertisements.

Although Concept 5 – Literary Response and Concept 6 – Research are not currently assessed by AIMS, they are taught and assessed in the classroom.